



# NJ National Guard Child & Youth Program News

State Family Programs Office  
Joint Military & Family Assistance Center  
*December, 2013*

## New Jersey National Guard Ornament for White House Christmas Tree



This year the White House provided us with an exciting opportunity! They asked each state/territory to submit a Christmas ornament which represents the Guard Families within the state/territory to hang on the tree in the White House. Only one ornament has been accepted from each state/territory, and will be submitted by the State Family Program office to the Soldier & Family Support Division.

Here in NJ, Jazmine L., acting President from the Guard Teen Panel, worked hard on what we submitted. She handmade the entire ornament and replicated our state pin with some minor additions. Jazmine added some Christmas ornaments to our lighthouse/Ferris wheel and our latest slogan, "Stronger than the Storm."

**THANK YOU Jazmine for all your hard work & creativity!!!!**

Stay tuned for more great upcoming opportunities...

\*\*\*American Red Cross CPR, AED & First Aid classes

\*\*\*Guard Teen Panel meetings & events

\*\*\*Spring Break Camps

\*\*\*Youth Camp 2014 – more information & applications available after 4 February 2014

Newsletter Written &  
Prepared By:

Amanda Balas  
amanda.m.balas.ctr@mail.mil  
Office: 609-324-7018  
Cell: 609-513-6403

&

Nicole Morgan-Lewis  
nicole.l.morgan-  
lewis.ctr@mail.mil  
Office: 609-324-7019  
Cell: 609-513-5841

Child & Youth Program  
Coordinators  
~COG Contractors~

Mailing Address:  
1048 US Highway 206  
Bordentown NJ 08505

Toll Free: 1-888-859-0352



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!!!**

[www.Facebook.com/NJNGChildandYouthProgram](http://www.Facebook.com/NJNGChildandYouthProgram)

## National Guard Youth Holiday Camp

This year, the NJ National Guard Child & Youth Program will be visiting Liberty Science Center for the youth holiday camp. Youth will be able to tour the Liberty Science Center in small groups before learning about the weather and enjoying lunch as a whole group.

This trip is for NG dependents ages 6-11 years old to attend a day of educational fun at Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, NJ. Deployed youth have preference. Transportation provided from JMFAC in Bordentown.

WHEN: Monday 30 December 2013

DROP OFF: JMFAC - 1048 US Highway 206 Bordentown, NJ 08505 between 8:15-8:30am

PICK UP: JMFAC - 1048 US Highway 206 Bordentown, NJ 08505 at 5:00pm

Please visit <http://www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/youth/forms.html> for the 2 page permission slip that each child must have on file. Please fax, mail or scan/email by Tuesday 17 December (or until all 40 slots are filled).

We are also looking for Child & Youth Program statutory teens and volunteers to attend the day's activities. If you are available and interested in attending, please contact Amanda.

---

## Guard Teens Support Veteran's Day Ceremonies

On Wednesday 13 November, two National Guard teens and many Veterans attended Haddonfield Middle School's Veterans Day assembly hosted by American Legion Post 38. The day's activities included recognition of Veterans, discussion on the quality of troops today, a tribute to military personnel currently serving overseas, a video presentation, guest speakers from the USO, a Family Readiness Group and retired military personnel.

Thomas and Zaniya, from the NJ Guard Teen Panel, were able to attend to share their stories about growing up in a military household, the challenges and benefits of being a military child and their experiences with deployment and reunion to the middle school students. They both did a phenomenal job speaking and representing military youth and teens throughout NJ.

THANK YOU Zaniya & Thomas for taking the time out of your busy schedules!!!!





## NJNG Guard Teen Panel



### 2013 Community Service Projects

- **A.R.M.S: Project Little Soldier**

With the continuation of soldiers being deployed to foreign lands, A.R.M.S would like to make their "Little Soldiers", who are left behind, smile for the holidays. It is hard enough for them to understand that their parents are underway, let alone the thought of spending the holidays without them. A wish list of 2 gifts for each of child of a deployed soldier is supplied and A.R.M.S would like to make each child's wish come true.

*The Guard Teen Panel will help to fulfill each little soldier's wish list. Teen will pick out gifts and wrap them.*

**When: December 14, 2013**  
**Time: 11 am – 3:00pm**

**Location: NJ National Guard Armory**  
**1200 Whitesville Rd, Toms River, NJ 08755**



- **Insectropolis: Jingle Bug Pajama Drive**

Insectropolis Bugseum in Toms River is a drop off location for new tagged children's pajamas or new books and they will deliver them to the local Pajama Project chapter. All sizes needed even adult sizes for the older kids.

*Guard Teens please collect new tagged pajamas or new books (at least two items each teen) and bring with you on December 14, 2013.*

**Guard Teen Panel**  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
**2:00pm-3:00pm**  
**Lunch & Snacks will be**  
**provided**



**RSVP By December 10, 2013 to [nicole.l.morgan-lewis.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:nicole.l.morgan-lewis.ctr@mail.mil)**

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

The New Jersey National Guard Child & Youth Program Coordinators, Nicole and Amanda, would like to wish all of you and your families a warm, safe and enjoyable holiday season!!! May all your dreams & wishes come true!!!

We hope 2013 was a great year and 2014 is even better for you, your family and friends!!!!

Please know the office will be closed Monday 23 December starting 1100 until Monday 30 December 0815 and then again on Tuesday 31 December and Wednesday 1 January. We will return to our regular (or irregular) schedule on Thursday 2 January 2014. If there is an emergency, please use our cell phones during this timeframe.



## The Armed Services YMCA is proud to announce the **2014 ASYMCA Essay Contest!**

### Theme: My Military Hero

- Volunteers will be reading all of your essays and will award the 1st prize in grades 1-8 category with an iPod Touch! Winners in Grades 9-12 will receive an iPad.
- Children of all Active Duty or retired (with 20+ years of service) military personnel from Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard/Reserve families in first through twelfth grade (1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) are eligible to enter.
- Grades 1-8 should write an essay of at least 100 words but not more than 300 words!
- Grades 9-12 should write no less than 300 words and no more than 500.
- All mailed entries must have an essay entry form found at the ASYMCA website: [www.asymca.org](http://www.asymca.org)
  - All entries must be postmarked by March 14, 2014.  
Mail Entries to:  
The Armed Services YMCA  
Attn: 2014 Essay Contest  
7405 Alban Station Court, Suite B 215  
Springfield, VA 22150
- Email Entries may also be sent to [MFM2014@asymca.org](mailto:MFM2014@asymca.org) by March 14, 2014. Entries must include all the information that is on the entry form!
- If you have any questions at all, please feel free to email Giselle Schneider at [gschneider@asymca.org](mailto:gschneider@asymca.org)

All of the Essays become property of the non-profit Armed Services YMCA and will not be returned. Visit the Armed Services YMCA website at [www.asymca.org](http://www.asymca.org) for complete rules and extra entry forms. The Armed Services YMCA is rated as an "Exceptional" Charity by Charity Navigator in 2012 and has helped make military life easier since the Civil War.

\*\*\*The winning entries will be used on the Military Family Month Poster for November 2014 and on ASY Materials!

## PROJECT YOUTH EXTENSION SERVICE NATIONAL SERVICE INTERNSHIP

Project Youth Extension Service (YES!) is now accepting internship applications for 2014-2015.



Project Y.E.S! is a Department of Defense funded national internship program engaging college students in service to meet the needs of military families. Specifically, Project Y.E.S! expands the resources of the Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP) and other youth & teen oriented programs. Staff interns are provided an opportunity to give back to their communities and country while gaining invaluable practical and career-enhancing experiences. Since 2011, we have supported youth events in 42 states and 4 US territories and proudly supported over 9,000 youth.

Through our partnership with the General H. Hugh Shelton Leadership Center, interns are provided first-class youth development educational and facilitation skills. In turn, they travel the nation delivering youth programs at Yellow Ribbon programs, summer camps, leadership summits, and other family programs. Project YES! also serves as a career development program. Staff interns are provided dedicated mentors who assist in the exploration and development of their career goals and in the completion of a career broadening learning project. This is all accomplished while meeting the critical needs of communities with high rates of families impacted by deployments and other military related absences.

Openings are available for summer (Jun-Sep) and full 1-year internship opportunities.

Applications will be accepted through Feb 28, 2014 and students will be notified of the status of their application by April, 2014. More information and application materials can be found at <http://militaryfamilies.extension.org/yes-intern-program/application-requirements/> <http://militaryfamilies.extension.org/yes-intern-program/>

Please feel free to share this announcement with others in your professional networks.

Please contact JC Johnson at [james\\_johnson@ncsu.edu](mailto:james_johnson@ncsu.edu) or 919-513-3165 for further information.

---

## What does that text actually mean???

Do you know what all your abbreviated messages actually mean?? I know times have changed, but nowadays you need your own text dictionary to read some messages from the younger generations. Here are some abbreviations you may not be aware of:

143	= I love you	303	= Mom	BI5	= back in 5
OTP	= on the phone	TTYL	= talk to you later	IDC	= I don't care
IDK	= I don't know	IDST	= I didn't say that	G4!	= go for it
TAW	= teachers are watching	P911	= parent alert or parents are listening	9	= parent watching

---